



Arizona Medical Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2013

The Arizona Medical Board ("Board") concurs with most of the Ombudsman-Citizens' Aide Report Of Investigation in case #1202725, which found that the Board's former Executive Director and Deputy Director implemented improper procedures for licensing physicians.

Although the former Executive Director and Deputy Director instituted policies that did not adhere to certain statutes and rules, the Board would like to assure the medical community and the public that Board staff has always taken measures to verify the accuracy of information provided by applicants. Moreover, at this time there is no evidence that the Board granted an unrestricted license to a physician who was not qualified to practice medicine.

To be absolutely certain that no one was improperly licensed, however, the Board is asking the Auditor General to do an independent audit to ensure that all physicians who received a license between August 2011 and August 2013 meet the basic requirements for licensure.

Because Board staff took steps to verify the physicians' credentials during the initial licensing process, the Board believes that allowing physicians licensed during the period in question to practice while the file review continues does not present a threat to public health and safety. Therefore, the status of all licensees shall remain unchanged pending the completion of the audit unless a material deficiency is noted in a particular licensee's file.

If a material deficiency is discovered, Board staff, including the chief medical consultant, and the Board will review the file to determine if the licensee presents a threat to public health and safety. If there is evidence of an imminent risk of harm to the public, the Board will immediately take summary action to suspend the physician's license pending a comprehensive review of the licensee's file.

Thank you,
Arizona Medical Board